

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 17.150

person as certified by that person in writing.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 111)

[56 FR 52476, Oct. 21, 1991. Redesignated at 61 FR 21966, May 13, 1996]

§ 17.145 Approval of unauthorized travel of claimants and beneficiaries.

(a) Payment may be approved for travel performed under § 17.143(a) through (g) without prior authorization only in those cases where the Department of Veterans Affairs determines that there was a need for prompt medical care which was approved and:

(1) The circumstances prevented a request for prior travel authorization, or

(2) Due to Department of Veterans Affairs delay or error prior authorization for travel was not given, or

(3) There was a justifiable lack of knowledge on the part of a third party acting for the veteran that a request for prior authorization was necessary.

(b) In other cases, payment may be approved for such travel without prior authorization only upon a finding by the Secretary or designee that failure to secure prior authorization was justified.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 111)

[29 FR 11183, Aug. 4, 1964, as amended at 45 FR 6938, Jan. 31, 1980. Redesignated at 56 FR 52475, Oct. 21, 1991, and further redesignated at 61 FR 21966, May 13, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 17072, Apr. 9, 1997]

PROSTHETIC, SENSORY, AND REHABILITATIVE AIDS

§ 17.149 Sensori-neural aids.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, VA will furnish needed sensori-neural aids (i.e., eyeglasses, contact lenses, hearing aids) only to veterans otherwise receiving VA care or services and only as provided in this section.

(b) VA will furnish needed sensori-neural aids (i.e., eyeglasses, contact lenses, hearing aids) to the following veterans:

(1) Those with a compensable service-connected disability;

(2) Those who are former prisoners of war;

(3) Those in receipt of benefits under 38 U.S.C. 1151;

(4) Those in receipt of increased pension based on the need for regular aid and attendance or by reason of being permanently housebound;

(5) Those who have a visual or hearing impairment that resulted from the existence of another medical condition for which the veteran is receiving VA care, or which resulted from treatment of that medical condition;

(6) Those with a significant functional or cognitive impairment evidenced by deficiencies in activities of daily living, but not including normally occurring visual or hearing impairments; and

(7) Those visually or hearing impaired so severely that the provision of sensori-neural aids is necessary to permit active participation in their own medical treatment.

(c) VA will furnish needed hearing aids to those veterans who have service-connected hearing disabilities rated 0 percent if there is organic conductive, mixed, or sensory hearing impairment, and loss of pure tone hearing sensitivity in the low, mid, or high-frequency range or a combination of frequency ranges which contribute to a loss of communication ability; however, hearing aids are to be provided only as needed for the service-connected hearing disability.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1701(6)(A)(i))

[62 FR 30242, June 3, 1997]

§ 17.150 Prosthetic and similar appliances.

Artificial limbs, braces, orthopedic shoes, hearing aids, wheelchairs, medical accessories, similar appliances including invalid lifts and therapeutic and rehabilitative devices, and special clothing made necessary by the wearing of such appliances, may be purchased, made or repaired for any veteran upon a determination of feasibility and medical need, provided:

(a) *As part of outpatient care.* The appliances or repairs are a necessary part of outpatient care for which the veteran is eligible under 38 U.S.C. 1712 and 38 CFR 17.93 (or a necessary part of outpatient care authorized under § 17.94) or

(b) *As part of hospital care.* The appliances or repairs are a necessary part of